B1 cont d2) analyzing the fractions with analytical HPLC and pooling the fractions depending on the quality of purity.

Please add new product-by-process claims 28-43, and new process claims 44-47, as follows:

B2 28. (new) An HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor obtained by purifying crude HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor by means of a purification process which is displacement chromatography resulting in an HPLC-purity exceeding 99.7%.

29. (new) An HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor according to claim 28, characterized in that the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of lovastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin, atorvastatin, mevastatin, and fluvastatin.

30. (new) An HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor according to claim 29, characterized in that the selected HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is lovastatin, simvastatin, or pravastatin.

31. (new) An HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor according to claim 28, characterized in that the selected HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is in a lactone form or in the form of an acid or a salt.

32. (new) An HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor with an HPLC purity exceeding 99.7% obtained by purifying a crude HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor by means of a purification process which is the displacement chromatography of claim 4.

33. (new) An HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor of claim 32, characterized in that the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of lovastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin, atorvastatin, mevastatin and fluvastatin.

34. (new) An HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor of claim 33, characterized in that the selected HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is lovastatin, simvastatin, or pravastatin.

35. (new) An HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor of claim 32, characterized in that the selected HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is in a lactone form or in the form of an acid or a salt.

36. (new) An HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor with an HPLC purity exceeding 99.7% obtained by purifying a crude HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor by means of a purification process which is the displacement chromatography of claim 5.

37. (new) An HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor of claim 36, characterized in that the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of lovastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin, atorvastatin, mevastatin and fluvastatin.

38. (new) An HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor of claim 37, characterized in that the selected HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is lovastatin, simvastatin, or pravastatin.

39. (new) An HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor of claim 36, characterized in that the selected HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is in a lactone form or in the form of an acid or a salt.

40. (new) An HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor with an HPLC purity exceeding 99.7% obtained by purifying a crude HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor by means of a purification process which is the displacement chromatography of claim 26.

41. (new) An HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor of claim 40, characterized in that the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of lovastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin, atorvastatin, mevastatin and fluvastatin.

42. (new) An HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor of claim 41, characterized in that the selected HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is lovastatin, simvastatin, or pravastatin.

43. (new) An HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor of claim 40, characterized in that the selected HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is in a lactone form or in the form of an acid or a salt.

44. (new) A process for obtaining an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, characterized in that the process is a purification of a crude HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor by displacement chromatography and involves using a displacer for displacing the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, comprising the steps of:

a) conditioning a chromatography column with a mobile phase;

b) feeding the crude HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor dissolved in the mobile phase onto the chromatography column;

c) introducing the displacer for displacing the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor from the column; and

d) obtaining the purified HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor.

B2 Cont

45. (new) A process for obtaining an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor according to claim 44, wherein the crude HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor has an HPLC purity in the range of about 80% to about 95%, and wherein the obtained purified HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor has an HPLC purity of greater than or equal to 99.7% in a pooled fraction.

46. (new) A process for obtaining an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor according to claim 45, wherein the crude HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor has an HPLC purity in the range of about 85% to about 95%.

47. (new) A process for obtaining an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor according to claim 46, wherein the crude HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor has an HPLC purity in the range of about 87% to about 95%.

REMARKS

Amended Claim 5

Claim 5 is herein amended to format the claim with proper antecedent bases for all elements. Claim 5, step d1) now reads: "collecting fractions" rather than "collecting the fractions." Applicants respectfully submit that all the elements in claim 5 now have proper antecedent bases.